



News from Congressman

Tom Lantos

**12th Congressional District of California
San Mateo/San Francisco**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 14, 2004**

**FOR INFORMATION CALL
Lynne Weil (202) 225-6735**

"Lantos Decries Proposed Mission to Mars as Fiscally Irresponsible"

Responding to the Bush Administration's announcement today of its plans to establish a base on the moon as a prelude to sending manned missions to Mars, Congressman Tom Lantos (D-CA), a senior member of the House Government Reform Committee, released the following statement:

"The White House says this program will cost nearly a billion dollars, which is already steep enough, and there's no guarantee that the price won't skyrocket with time.

Meanwhile, those of us whose feet are planted firmly on earth are alert to the fact that promises of other bold presidential initiatives are going unfulfilled. Why is the No Child Left Behind program, which provided such hope just two years ago, now being deprived of the financial support needed to meet its goals? Why are the Republicans failing to provide full funding for the inspiring initiative to halt the spread of global AIDS that was announced during last year's State of the Union address?

The Bush Administration wants this country to boldly go where it has never gone before: into permanent debt and perpetual failure to carry out its grand initiatives. Why launch another one now?"

###